AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) An apparatus comprising:

a switch-box, wherein the switch-box comprises ~~a memory buffer and~~ a control, the ~~memory buffer to which~~ control to copy information to a network cut-and-paste data-structure ~~is copied~~ from a first computing system selected via the switch-box from two or more computing systems coupled with the switch-box as a result of the control recognizing a first dedicated predetermined event, wherein the first computing system comprises a standard cut-and-copy buffer, ~~and~~ wherein the execution of the first dedicated predetermined event causes the information to be associated with a user-id and to be copied to the ~~memory buffer in the switch-box~~ network cut-and-paste data-structure and not to the standard cut-and-copy buffer of the first computing system, and wherein the information associated with the user-id is copied from the network cut-and-paste data-structure to a second computing system of the two or more computing systems as a result of the control recognizing the execution of the second dedicated predetermined event.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim ~~2~~ 1, wherein the first and second dedicated predetermined events are predetermined respective first and second keystroke sequences.

4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 3 further comprising a timer employed, at least in part, to recognize the first and second keystroke sequences.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Canceled)

7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the two or more computing systems are coupled with the switch-box via a data transfer coupling and a set of interface device couplings.

8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the data transfer coupling comprises a parallel interface.

9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the data transfer coupling comprises a serial interface.

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the serial interface comprises a Universal Serial Bus (USB) interface.

11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the data transfer coupling comprises an infrared communication interface.

12. (Currently amended) A method comprising:

copying information from a first computing system of at least two or more computing systems to ~~an external buffer included in a switch box~~ a network cut-and-paste data-structure, ~~the~~ a switch-box being accessible by the two or more computing systems, the copying occurring as a result of a control in the switch-box recognizing a first dedicated predetermined event, ~~wherein the control is included in the switch box,~~ wherein the first computing system comprises a standard cut-and-copy buffer, ~~and~~ wherein the execution of the first dedicated predetermined event causes the information to be associated with a user-id and to be copied to the ~~external buffer in the switch box~~ network cut-and-paste data-structure and not to the standard cut-and-copy buffer of the first computing system; and

copying the information associated with the user-id in the network cut-and-paste data-structure to a second computing system of the two or more computing systems as a result of the control recognizing the execution of a second dedicated predetermined event.

13. (Currently amended)The method of claim 12, wherein copying information to the ~~external buffer~~ network cut-and-paste data-structure is accomplished by employing ~~a~~ the standard cut-

and-paste buffer of the first computing system.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~14~~ 12, wherein the first and second dedicated predetermined events comprise predetermined, time-limited respective first and second keystroke sequences.

16. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the first and second keystroke sequences are keystroke sequences defined by respective operating systems of the first computing system and the second computing system for accessing standard cut-and-paste buffers employed by those systems.

17. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the first and second keystroke sequences are dedicated keystroke sequences for copying information to and from the external buffer.

18. (Currently amended) A method comprising:

determining by a control in a switch-box that a first dedicated predetermined event has been generated by a user at a first computing system, wherein the user has an associated user-id and wherein the first computing system comprises a standard cut-and-copy buffer;

copying information from the first computing system to a network cut-and-paste data-

structure and not to the standard cut-and-copy buffer of the first computing system as a result of the execution of the first dedicated predetermined event; ~~and~~

associating the copied information with the associated user-id in the network cut-and-paste data-structure;

determining by the control that a second dedicated predetermined event has been generated by the user at a second computing system; and

searching the network cut-and-paste data structure as a result of the second dedicated predetermined event, wherein the execution of the second dedicated predetermined event causes the information with the associated user-id to be copied from the network cut-and-paste data structure to the second computing system.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~19~~ 18, wherein determining that the first dedicated predetermined event was generated comprises recognizing a first predetermined, time-limited event.

21. (Previously presented) The method of claim 20, wherein determining that the second dedicated predetermined event has been generated comprises recognizing a second predetermined, time-limited event.

22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the first and second

predetermined, time-limited events comprise respective first and second keystroke sequences.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Canceled)

25. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein copying information comprises employing a standard cut-and-paste buffer for an operating system of the first computing system.

26. (Currently amended) An article comprising: a storage medium having a plurality of machine-readable instructions, wherein when the instructions are executed by a computing system, the instructions provide for

determining by a control in a switch-box that a first dedicated predetermined event has been generated by a user at a first computing system, wherein the user has an associated user-id and wherein the first computing system comprises a standard cut-and-copy buffer;

copying information from the first computing system to a network cut-and-paste data-structure and not to the standard cut-and-copy buffer of the first computing system as a result of the execution of the first dedicated predetermined event; ~~and~~

associating the copied information with the associated user-id in the network cut-and-paste data-structure;

determining by the control that a second dedicated predetermined event has been generated by the user at a second computing system;

searching the network cut-and-paste data structure as a result of the second dedicated predetermined event, wherein the execution of the second dedicated predetermined event causes the information with the associated user-id to be copied from the network cut-and-paste data structure to the second computing system.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Currently amended) The article of claim ~~27~~ 26, wherein determining that the first dedicated predetermined event was generated comprises recognizing a first predetermined, time-limited event and determining that the first dedicated predetermined event was generated comprises recognizing a second predetermined, time-limited event.

29. (Previously presented) The article of claim 26, wherein the network cut-and-paste data structure comprises an array including a user-id data-field and an information-field.

30. (Original) The article of claim 29, wherein associating the user-id with the copied information comprises copying the user-id to a user-id data-field for a specific one array entry and copying the information to a corresponding information data-field for the specific one array entry.